

THE PARISH OF SHANAGOLDEN.

11

SITUATION. This Parish consists of various detached portions. The principal portion is bounded on the north, west and east by the Parish of Robertstown, on the north by Aughinish and Faunamore, on the south by Kilmoylan and on the west by the Parish of Loughal. It lies entirely in the Barony of Shanid.

NAME. The name of this Parish is in Irish Sean-Ghualainn, which signifies the Old Shoulder or Hill.

In the Caithreim Ceallacháin Caisil (Book of Lismore) this place is called Sean Ghualainn Cladháird Ua Conuill, i.e., Sean-ghualainn, the High Mounded of Hy-Connaill.

Of the old Church of this Parish the choir still remains; the site of the nave is occupied by the modern Church, the middle gable of the old Church being used as the east gable of the new one. It is not easy to determine whether any other portion of the walls of the old nave have been embodied in the building of the present Church. The choir is twenty nine and a half feet long by twenty one feet. The window on the east gable is now nearly destroyed, the arch on the inside, which is formed of brown cut stone beautifully ornamented, remains, but only a small portion of it can be seen as it is almost entirely covered with ivy. On the south side wall also there are two windows which are now disfigured; they were formed of the same brown stone as the preceding. The eastern window of the new Church is in the pointed style. The walls of the choir are about fourteen feet high and three feet in thickness. It is built of very large stones regularly laid with sand and lime mortar. There is a large graveyard much in use attached to this Church. 19

In the Townland of Kilcosgrave there is a ruined house which was built upon the site of Kilcosgrave Castle.

The Antiquities of Shanagolden Parish were examined by Mr. A. Curry and the notes put into the above form by Mr. O'Keeffe.

J.O'D.